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S/N 09/961,036

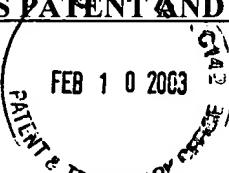
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Madhav Datta et al.

Serial No.: 09/961,036

Filed: September 21, 2001

Title: DUAL-STACK, BALL-LIMITING METALLURGY AND METHOD OF
MAKING SAME



Examiner: Erik Kielin

Group Art Unit: 2813

Docket: 884.523US1

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on November 1, 2002. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The limitations of claim 18— more specifically, the connection of the copper pad contacting a metallization in a range from M1 to M6— must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. Rule 83 also states, “However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).” Applicant respectfully asserts that metal-one (M1) to M6, whatever is present in a substrate, is conventional.

Applicant directs the attention of the Office to the specification at page 4, lines 3-5: “**Figure 1** is a cross-section of a semiconductor structure 10 during fabrication that includes a substrate 12 and a metallization 14 such as a copper pad that makes connection to what is commonly referred to as metal six (M6) by way of non-limiting example.” The substrate 12, FIGS. 1-9 which contains any commonly used metallization, is illustrated as conventional and within a labeled rectangular box 12. That the metallization makes connection to a given wiring layer such as M1 to M6, is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.